Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: May – July 2018 Issue date: 26.04.18

The forecast presented here is for May and the average of the May-June-July period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for May will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/ #?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 4 May 2018.

This forecast is based on information from observations, several numerical prediction systems and expert judgement.

SUMMARY – PRECIPITATION:

For both May and May-June-July as a whole, above-average precipitation is slightly more likely than below-average precipitation.

The probability that UK-average precipitation for May-June-July will fall into the driest of our five categories is between 15% and 20% and the probability that it will fall into the wettest of our five categories is around 25% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

The late spring and early summer period is one of the driest times of year across the UK (see figure P1). At this time of year, predictability of UK precipitation is lower than in winter, because there are few large-scale global factors that influence weather patterns significantly across Northern Europe. It is also worth noting that as we approach summer, precipitation becomes more convective and localised in nature and there is often more regional variability.

For both May and May-June-July, the Met Office long-range prediction system, along with systems from other prediction centres, shows very little tendency towards any specific type of weather pattern. As a result, the chances of above- and below-average precipitation are close to normal, with the small shifts in probability towards wetter-than-average conditions (see graphs of figure P2) consistent with the precipitation tendency in the last 10 years.

Fig P1

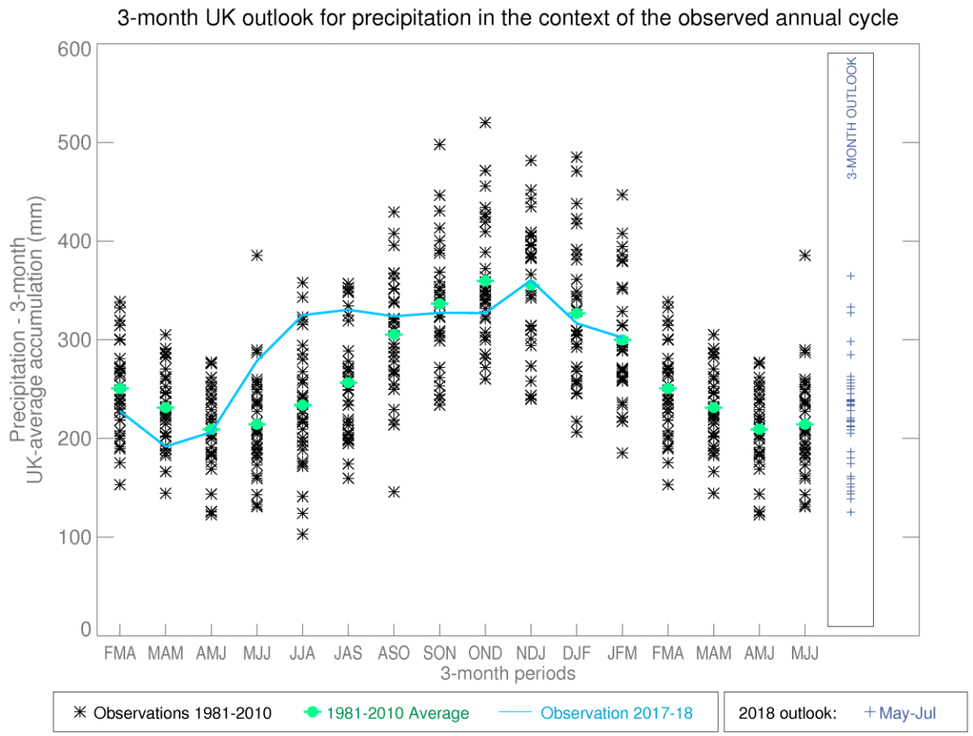


Fig P2

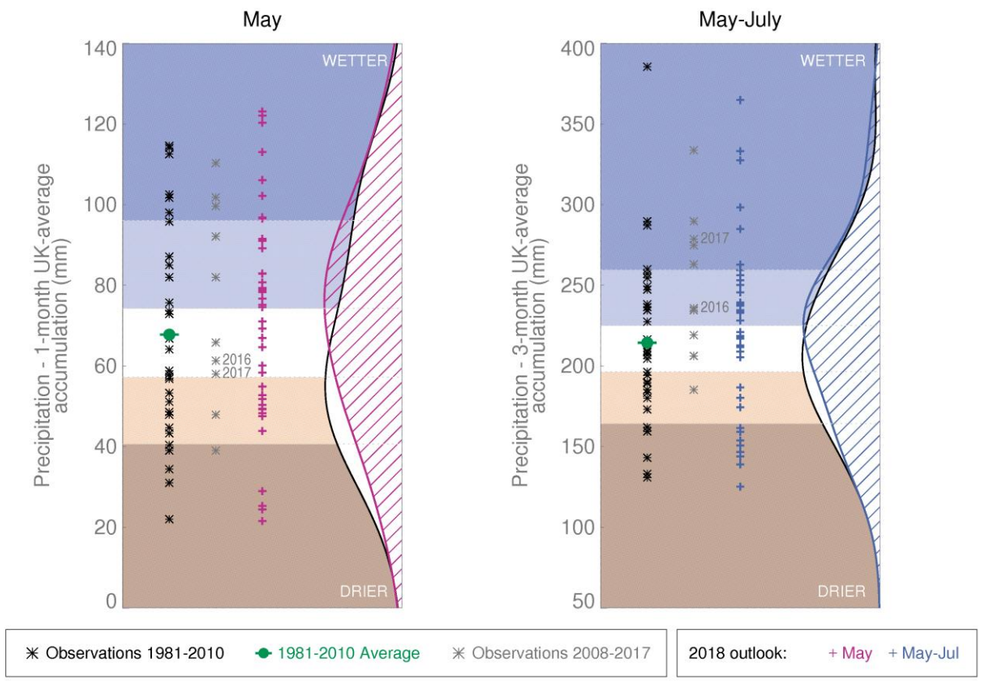
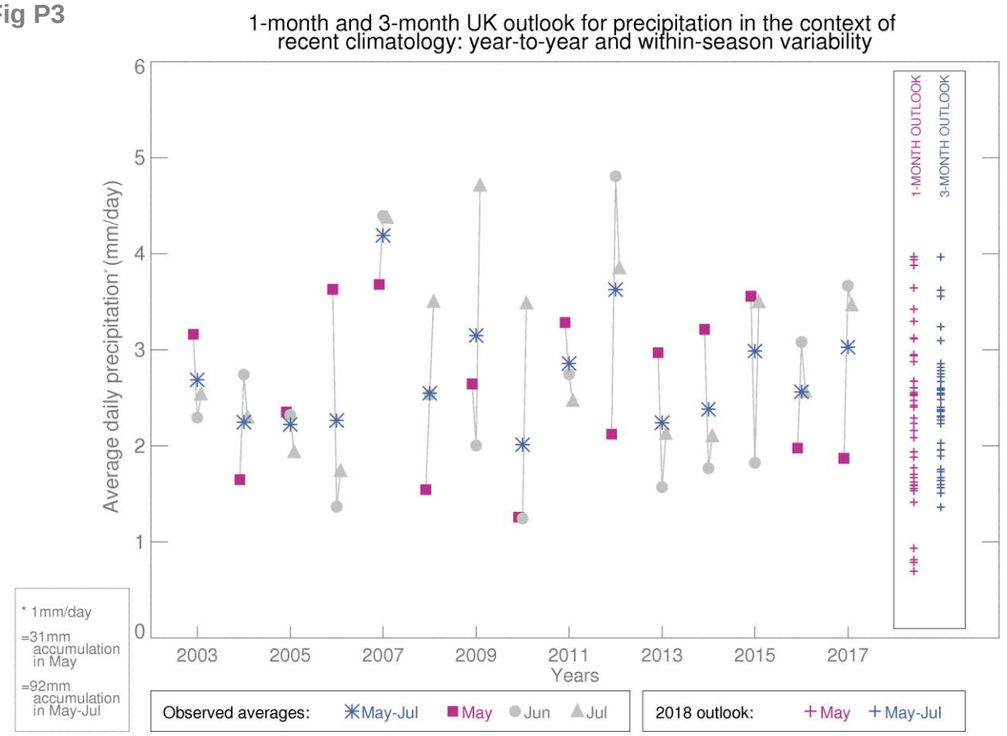


Fig P3


1-month and 3-month UK outlook for precipitation in the context of recent climatology: year-to-year and within-season variability
Average daily precipitation* (mm/day)
1-MONTH OUTLOOK
3-MONTH OUTLOOK
* 1mm/day =31mm accumulation in May =92mm accumulation in May-Jul
2003 2005 2007 2009 2011 2013 2015 2017
Years
Observed averages: May-Jul May Jun Jul
2018 outlook: May May-Jul

This Outlook provides an indication of possible temperature and rainfall conditions over the next 3 months. It is part of a suite of forecasts designed for contingency planners.

The Outlook should not be used in isolation but should be used with shorter-range and more detailed (30-day, 15-day and 1-to-5-day) forecasts and warnings available to the contingency planning community from the Met Office.